(c) Government of India is implementing a number of programmes in order to eradicate poverty. The major schemes and programmes in this regard include National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS), Swarna Jayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY), Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY), and Swarna Jayanti Shahri Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY). These are in addition to the benefits of increase in income arising from the general growth process.

Tax collection

333. SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN:
SHRI MOHAMMED AMIN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the direct and indirect Tax arrears as on 31 March, 2009;

(b) the total Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) of public sector banks as on 31 March, 2009;

(c) the reserve and surplus of Central Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) as on 31 March, 2009;

(d) whether any part of the above is being targeted as investible surplus;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(g) the total public investment in 2008-09 in agriculture, health, education and social security schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (g) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Negative rate of inflation

†334. SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that inflation rate had been negative at the end of week ending on 6 June, 2009;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that prices of primary articles like cereals, pulses, fruits, vegetables, sugar etc. have increased instead of decline; and

(d) if not, Government's reaction in this regard and what would be its impact on the common man's monthly budget?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) The year-on-year inflation measured by WPI was negative at 1.6 per cent in the week ended June 6, 2009. In the three commodity groups of Primary articles, Fuel, power, light & lubricants and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.